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IDAHO COOPERATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH UNIT
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND RANGE SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
MOSCOW, IDAHO 83843
(208) 885-6336

17 April 1995

Mr. Randal Brich
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 MSIN H4-83
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Brich,

Recently a letter was circulated through the Department of Fish and Wildlife, here at the University of Idaho, requesting input on the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment. I have just one suggestion regarding criteria in which to identify species to be monitored for this project. I am assuming that the fall chinook salmon juveniles that were spawned and rear in this area will be a major focus of the assessment, and that migratory spring and summer chinook smolts may also be a concern. I suggest that when studying these migratory groups of smolts, that a distinction be made between the hatchery produced and natural/wild segments of the salmon passing through the Hanford Reach. We know that there exist significant differences between the behavior, physiology, and genetics of hatchery and natural/wild salmon. These differences may result in a variable response by the hatchery and natural/wild smolts to potentially harmful substances that may be present within the area of study. I am a graduate student and I have been investigating the behavior of natural and hatchery chinook salmon. One of our professors here at the University, Dr. Jim Congelton, has been investigating the physiological differences between the hatchery and natural chinook salmon and steelhead, which may be more pertinent to your needs. I have forwarded the information I received on the CRCIA to Dr. Congelton. If interested, you can contact Dr. Congelton, or myself, at the address listed above. I hope this has been of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Peery

COOPERATORS:

University of Idaho

Fish and Wildlife Service • University of Idaho • Department of Fish and Game • Wildlife Management Institute

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